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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,200	09/09/2003	Bao Shyan Lai	MR1683-494	9133
4586	7590	09/28/2005	EXAMINER	
ROSENBERG, KLEIN & LEE 3458 ELLICOTT CENTER DRIVE-SUITE 101 ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21043			SUKMAN, GABRIEL S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3641	

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/657,200	LAI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Gabriel S. Sukman	3641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4 and 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 6-8 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in the reply filed on 7 July 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0154600 A1 to Jong.

Jong discloses all of the limitations of claim 1 except for including a gunlock in the disclosure of the paintball marker. Jong discloses an air gun that includes a striker rod (16), a rear block (53) being pushed by a thruster (37, 46, 52), a controlling valve (38) at the front end that is connected with several pipelines (36, 64, 66, 68) for connecting to an air source and the thruster, and a trigger (92). The thruster of Jong (52, 46, 37) is mounted in the main body at the horizontal center of the block (53), as is clearly shown in figures 1a-2, and includes a piston rod (52) that is controlled by the controlling valve (38) and is axially movable out of the main body as is seen in figure 1b. The end of the piston rod that extends out of the main body is right fixedly connected

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with the center of the rear block, as is seen in figure 1b. The claimed element absent from Jong, the gunlock, is well known in the art as is admitted by applicant and depicted as "prior art" in figures 8 and 9 and, further, is no more than an extraneous element of an air gun that is not at all critical or essential to the instant invention. In view of the fact that the gunlock element has been admitted as prior art, it therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the gunlock element to the paintball marker of Jong in order to control the striker rod and to lock the gun for known safety reasons. Also, it seems likely that the gun or Jong may inherently teach the gunlock element as a necessary element for proper functioning but such element was left out of the discussion since it was not essential to the invention.

The modified invention of Jong teaches the limitations of claim 2 since a gunlock would be located in the space of the gun of Jong that is underneath the piston channel and necessarily parallel to the channel, 32.

The modified invention of Jong teaches the limitations of claim 3 since the cylinder (37) of Jong is disposed at the center of the rear block, via rod 52.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the combination that would teach an air gun having a thruster and piston rod connected at the center of a rear block that additionally has two passages or channels formed in the main body on two sides of the thruster.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 4,332,234 to Allen

U.S. Patent No. 5,542,406 to Oneto

U.S. Patent No. 5,791,328 to Alexander

U.S. Patent No. 6,532,949 B1 to McKendrick

U.S. Patent No. 5,890,479 to Morin

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0115553 A1 to Garfield Jong

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gabriel S. Sukman whose telephone number is (571) 272-6883. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-6:00, every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J. Carone can be reached on (571) 272-6873. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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MICHAEL J. CARBONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER